

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3907

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USNATO 6015

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: GDR PREPARED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH FRG

1. SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF PRE-ARRANGED "CASUAL" MEETING AT LEIPZIG FAIR SEPTEMBER 1, SED FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER TOLD FRG PERMREP GUNTHER GAUS THAT GDR WAS READY "AT ANY TIME" FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH FRG, PARTICULARLY IN COMMERCIAL FIELD. HONECKER STRESSED THAT GDR SOUGHT "CONTINUITY AND STABILITY" IN ITS FOREIGN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, AND WAS THEREFORE INTERESTED IN LONG-TERM BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS. GAUS SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD PRESS THAT FRG-GDR RELATIONSHIP SEEMED TO HAVE CALMED DOWN AFTER CONTROVERSIES OF PAST WEEKS, AND THAT "AUTUMN OF CONFIDENTIAL

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NUMEROUS TALKS" COULD BE ANTICIPATED. END SUMMARY.

2. STATE SECRETARY GAUS, HEAD OF FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN, HELD TWENTY-MINUTE CONVERSATIONS WITH SED FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER SEPTEMBER 1 AT HOECHST CHEMICAL COMPANY STAND AT LEIPZIG FAIR. THIS WAS FIRST TIME THAT TWO MEN HAD MET. ACCORDING TO ADN REPORT, PUBLISHED IN FULL IN SEPTEMBER 2 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, GAUS INFORMED HONECKER, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, THAT FRG WAS INTERESTED IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF FRG-GDR RELATIONS, INCLUDING TRADE TIES. HONECKER RESPONDED THAT GDR WAS PREPARED "AT ANY TIME" TO DEVELOPE FURTHER ITS RELATIONS WITH FRG, AND CITED CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON COMMERCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AS CASE IN POINT. HONECKER STRESSED THAT GDR WAS STRIVING FOR "CONTINUITY AND STABILITY" IN ITS FOREIGN-TRADE RELATIONS, AND WAS THEREFORE INTERESTED IN LONG-TERM BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF HOECHST OFFICIAL, HONECKER SAID THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS COULD APPROPRIATELY BE WORKED OUT "AT THE CONCRETE LEVEL" (SIC).

3. GAUS TOLD PRESS SEPTEMBER 2 THAT HE HAD IMPRESSION THAT FRG-GDR RELATIONSHIP HAD CALMED DOWN AFTER CONTROVERSIES OF PAST FEW WEEKS, AND THAT IN LIGHT OF HONECKER'S REMARKS "AUTUMN OF NUMEROUS TALKS" COULD BE ANTICIPATED. GAUS EMPHASIZED THAT GDR HAD UNMISTEABLY EXPRESSED, AT BEGINNING OF FAIR, STRONG INTEREST IN CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF TRADE WITH FRG. MANY FRG EXHIBITORS AT FAIR, HE SAID, HAD VOICED HOPES THAT INNER-GERMAN TRADE COULD BE EXTENDED WITH ASSISTANCE OF GOVERNMENT.

4. DR. BRAEUTIGAM, CHIEF OF POLITICAL SECTION OF FRG PERMREP, CONFIRMED TO MISSION OFFICER SEPTEMBER 3 THAT GAUS-HONECKER MEETING HAD BEEN PREARRANGED. AFTER HOECHST OFFICIALS HAD INFORMED PERMREP SOME WEEKS EARLIER THAT HONECKER AND CHAIRMAN OF STATE COUNCIL STOPH WERE PLANNING TO STOP AT HOECHST STAND DURING OPENING-DAY TOUR OF FAIR, PERMREP INQUIRED OF GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR GAUS, AS CHIEF OF MISSION, TO BE PRESENT FOR STOPH'S VISIT. REPLY CAME BACK TO EFFECT THAT GAUS WOULD BE WELCOME SHOULD HE DESIRE TO ATTEND. (ULTIMATELY, CHAIRMAN OF GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SINDERMAN SUBSTITUTED FOR STOPH.) BRAEUTIGAM SAID THAT GAUS' CONFIDENTIAL

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OPENING WORDS TO HONECKER HAD BEEN THAT FRG WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH GDR ALL "OPIN QUESTION" IN BILATERAL RELATIONSJP-- WHICH FOR FRG IMPLIED AS MUCH POLITICAL AS COMMERCIAL MATTERS. EXTENSION OF "SWING" WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED DURING CONVERSATION,

BRAEUTIGAM SAID, ALTHOUGH IT WAS OBVIOUSLY IN FOREFRONT OF GDR CONCERNS. HONECKER'S REFERENCE TO TALKS "AT THE CONCRETE LEVEL," BRAEUTIGAM ADDED, WAS INTERPRETED BY FRG AS

GDR ACCEPTANCE OF POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN BUSINESS FIRMS RATHER THAN SOLELY BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS. CONVERSATION, WHICH WAS LARGELY CONFINED TO GENERALITIES, TOOK PLACE IN FRONT OF GROUP OF GDR AND HOECHST OFFICIALS AND WAS HARDLY PRIVATE TETE-A-TETE.

5. BRAEUTIGAM POINTED OUT THAT HONECKER'S STATEMENTS AT LEIPZIG ACCORDED WITH FAVORABLE TREATMENT FRG HAD RECEIVED IN GDR PRESS IN RECENT DAYS. NOT ONLY HAD SERIES ON EXFILTRATION SENTENCES CEASED, BUT GENERAL REPORTING ON FRG HAD SUDDENLY BECOME MORE OBJECTIVE AND NON-POLEMICAL. SELIGMANN

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## Message Attributes

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